PRICE OF FREEDOM
Life of
KOTOKA
from birth to death — GHANATTA

Author

&

Illustrator

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with best wishes
from a. a. Lassi to
Sandy Hartin California
U. S. A.

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FOREWORD

by

Brigadier A. A. AFRIFA

Member N.L.C.

Lieutenant-General Kotoka in his everlasting rest has no regrets that he has fallen in this fight. He has won a noble name; he has been of service to his country, and his people He died that all of us may live our lives in dignity and in freedom and above all he died a great soldier.

This is the joy of our profession. To all our people we offer liberty, freedom and justice, in pursuit of these we are prepared to die now or in the future. The gallant few are those who have died in opposition to tyranny in this land. From their graves let them watch our efforts to transform this land into the great and free country it should be.

Must we fail the departed heroes?

May he and the others rest in peace!

Brigadier

Teshie
Accra.

PREFACE

by

MR. JUSTICE NII AMAA OLLENNU

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the General Kotoka Trust Fund

It gives me great pleasure to be invited to introduce this booklet, PRICE OF FREEDOM which, I have no doubt, grown-ups will find interesting to read, and which children will look on as a useful guide to some of the main events in the recent history of this Country.

The booklet appears six months after the sad death of Lt.-Gen. Emmanuel Kwasi Kotoka, G.S.O. Like the many acts of condolence and grief which were spontaneously held throughout the country and those fitting memorials held at our foreign Missions, following the fateful event on the morning of April 17, 1967, this booklet is a tribute to that soldier. It also expresses the author's deep sense of loss for a true and gallant patriot.

The stories in the booklet may be divided into five main sections. The first section (pages 5–9) deals with the early childhood and education of the late General among his humble fisherfolk in the fishing village of Fiahor up to the time he enlisted in the Royal West African Frontier Force in 1947.

The second section (pages 10–18) takes us through his early experiences in the Army during which he won successive quick promotions owing to his sterling military qualities of bravery and prompt leadership, qualities which were later to distinguish him for the award of the United Nations Distinguished Service Order for the excellent services he rendered in the Congo between 1960 and 1962. The late General was again to display these excellent qualities when on February 24, 1966, he and other colleagues redeemed this country from oppressive hands of dictatorship, misrule and corruption.

The crucial and third stage (pages 19–26) in our hero's life began when he returned home finally in 1963 after successively leading the Second Battalion of the Ghana Army on three separate occasions to the then strife-torn Congo. He was posted to Kumasi.

The late Lt.-Gen. Kotoka was first and foremost a soldier. But what was not generally so well known about him and which I have been fortunate to glean from some of his closest friends and colleagues, is that he was at heart a social reformer. He was a passionate champion of personal liberty, of social and political justice and fair play. It was for these reasons that he had been happy to respond to the call on three successive occasions to serve in the Congo to fight for the restitution of these values which were so dear to his heart. But on his final return home, he found in the then current economic and political situation the very evils he had fought against in the Congo. Judges were arbitrarily dismissed; there was a general reign of terror and the people lived in "perpetual fear" as a result of the imposition of police-state methods and the people were "hungry". (Page 20). These evils, naturally, outraged the deep humanitarian feelings and liberal principles of the late General, and spurred him on to work out plans for the overthrow of the Government. In Brigadier A. A. Afrifa, he found an enthusiastic, loyal and ready supporter (pages 19–20). The stage was now set for the Glorious Revolution to liberate the oppressed people of Ghana and soon our hero was talking to Mr. J. W. K. Harlley, Vice-Chairman of the National Liberation Council: "John, we'll have to act. We must strike as soon as he (Nkrumah) goes to Hanoi; there'll be less bloodshed when he's away". (Page 21c). Other army officers commanding sections, e.g. artillery,

were confided in and pledged support.

The closing period of the late Lt.-Gen. Kotoka's existence, (pages 24–26) ironically began with the successful toppling of the former dictatorial regime on 24th February, 1966. It was the day on which the people of this country were freed from some 15 years of dictatorship, oppression and the subjection to some of the worst national indignities and humiliations a people have ever known. It was the day on which Ghanaians were at long last restored to their lost human dignity, political and social justice and freedom. It was the day on which "the myth" of one-man rule was broken. (Page 29).

In the new Government that was established, the late General, in addition to his great responsibility for the defence of Ghana, was also responsible for the portfolios of Health, Labour and Social Welfare. We are all witnesses to the fact that he discharged his duties with honour to himself and with great credit to his versatility as a first class civilian administrator.

His heroic and tragic death is depicted in the fifth section (pages 34–39). It is the sad irony of fate that while the late General and his colleagues of the National Liberation Council worked tirelessly day and night for the political and economic reconstruction of Ghana, in the words of the author, "a few . . . junior officers (of the Ghana Army) planned their destruction over vast bottles of liquor" (page 30c). But again to quote from the booklet, though Lt.-Gen. Kotoka is dead " . . . he's not forgotten. His brave deeds live on in all our minds and hearts for evermore." (page 40).

This booklet does not claim to be textbook of history. The cartoonist has admirably achieved his aim to record in an easy popular style and readable form some of the already familiar events in our recent history. He deserves our gratitude and congratulations.

One other paramount object of the author in producing this booklet is to assist the scheme for raising funds for the Kotoka Trust Fund. A purchase of a copy of the booklet is a contribution to the Fund. For that reason, if for none other, the booklet deserves the patronage of all lovers of freedom.*

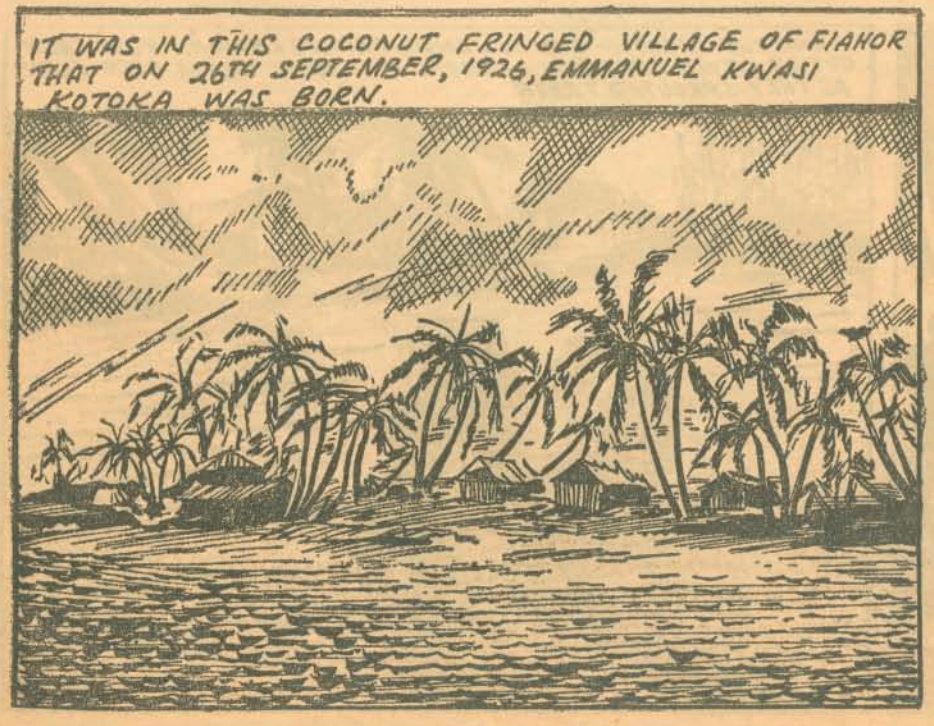
The Board of Trustees are grateful to the author for the public spirit he has shown in this publication, and commend his example to all citizens and friends of Ghana.

7th July, 1967 N. A. OLLENNU

This preface was written on 7th July, 1967 when the Kotoka Trust Fund was still open. The Fund is now closed and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees has announced that no more appeals are being made to the public.

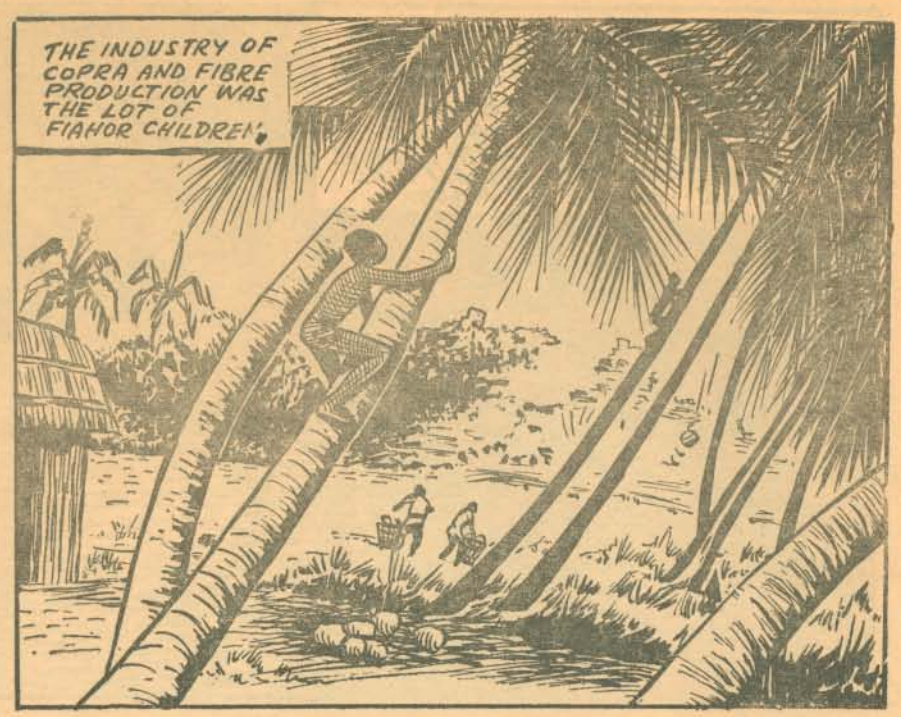
— AT THE MOST EASTERNLY CORNER OF GHANA LIES THE LARGEST LAGOON TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. STRETCHING MORE THAN 30 MILES, THIS ROMANTIC EXPANSE OF SHALLOW WATER IS KNOWN AS THE KETA LAGOON. ....AND BEYOND THIS LAGOON LIES THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF FIAHOR.

THE SYMBOL OF PLEASANT WELCOME TO FIAHOR.

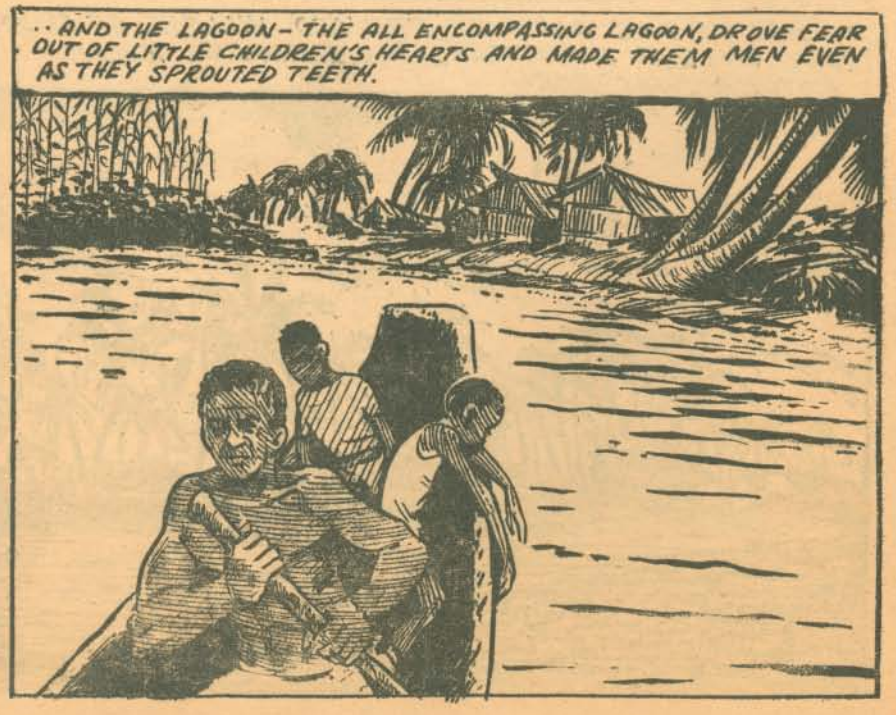

IT WAS IN THIS COCONUT FRINGED VILLAGE OF FIAHOR THAT ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1926, EMMANUEL KWASI KOTOKA WAS BORN.

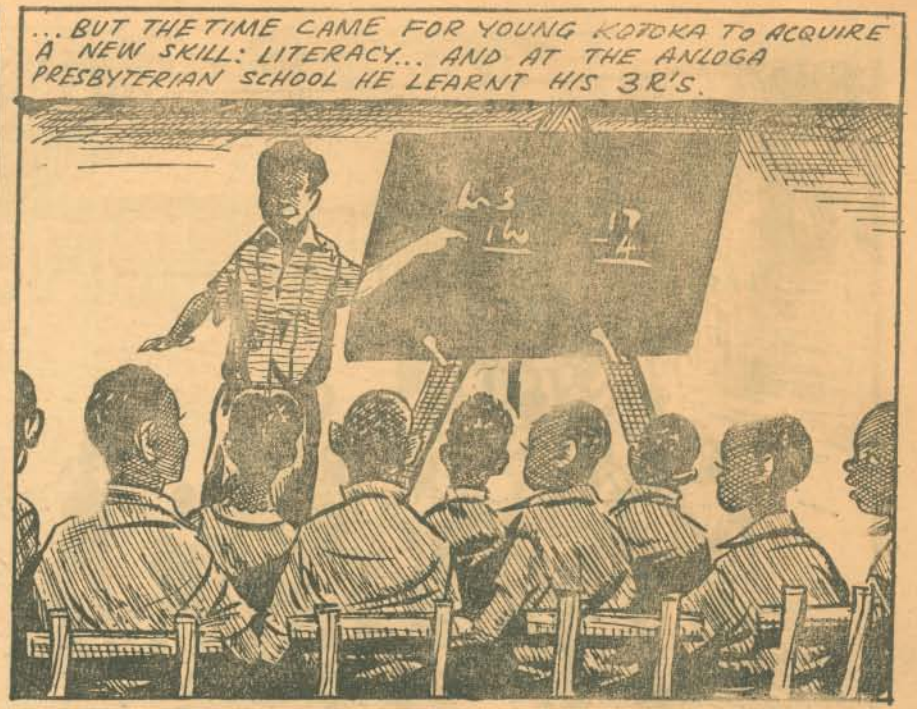
LITTLE DID THE HUMBLE FISHER-FOLK TO WHOM HE WAS BORN REALISE THAT HE WAS TO GROW UP TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST GHANAIANS THAT EVER LIVED.

KOTOKA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD WAS SPENT IN LEARNING THE TRADITIONAL FISHING METHODS OF HIS PEOPLE.

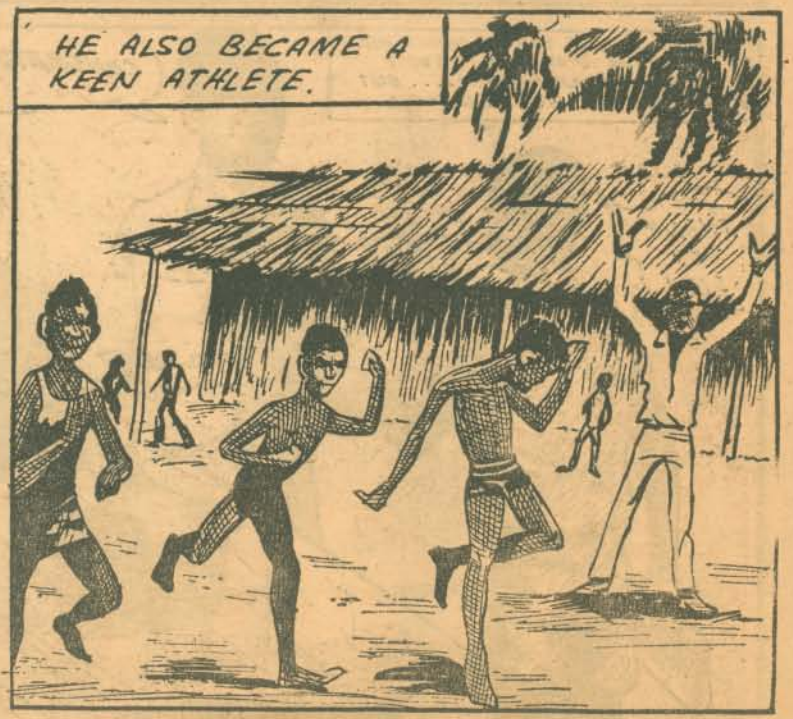

THE INDUSTRY OF COPRA AND FIBRE PRODUCTION WAS THE LOT OF FIAHOR CHILDREN.

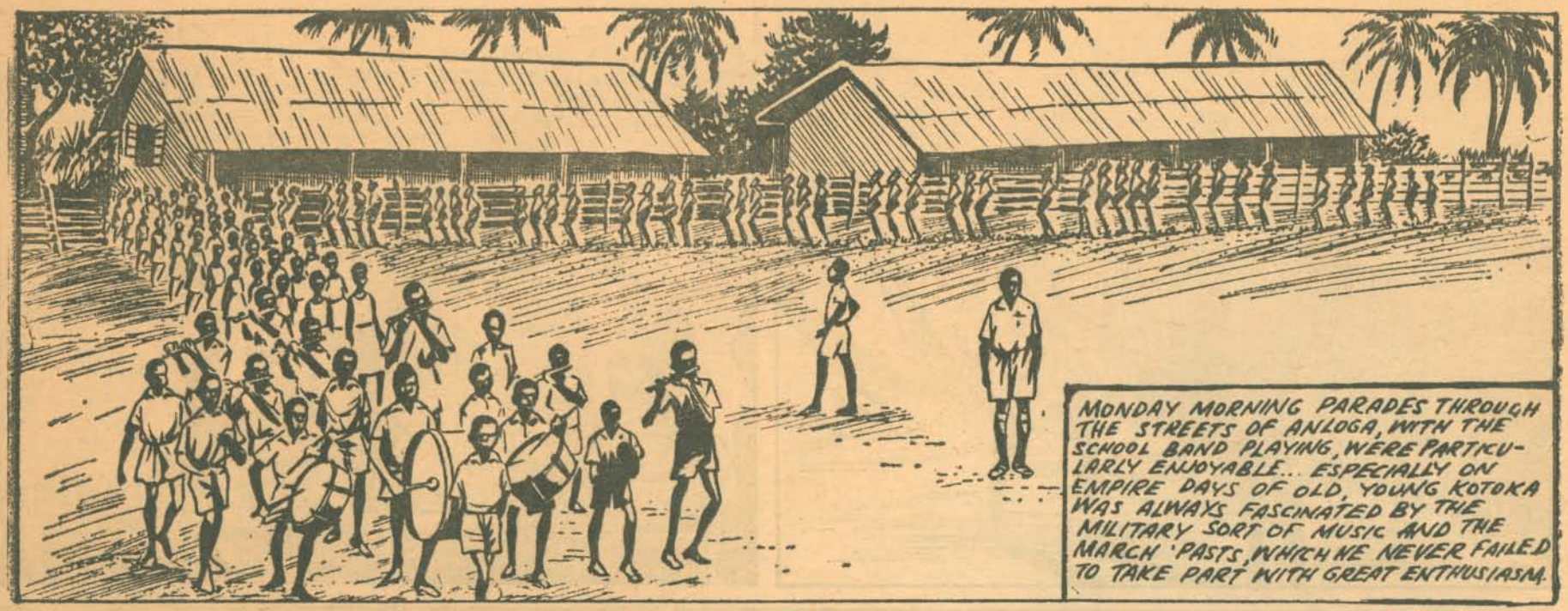
TOUGHNESS WAS THE SECOND NATURE TO FIAHOR CHILDREN, EVIDENCE?.. A BRISK BALL GAME OF THIS KIND IS FOUGHT OUT COMPETENTLY IN THE VAST SAND.


.. AND THE LAGOON - THE ALL ENCOMPASSING LAGOON, DROVE FEAR OUT OF LITTLE CHILDREN'S HEARTS AND MADE THEM MEN EVEN AS THEY SPROUTED TEETH.


...BUT THE TIME CAME FOR YOUNG KOTOKA TO ACQUIRE A NEW SKILL: LITERACY... AND AT THE ANLOGA PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL HE LEARNT HIS 3R'S.

GOOD WORK, MY BOY. MAKE ALL THE CORRECTIONS.
CONTINUE LIKE THAT...


HE ALSO BECAME A KEEN ATHLETE.

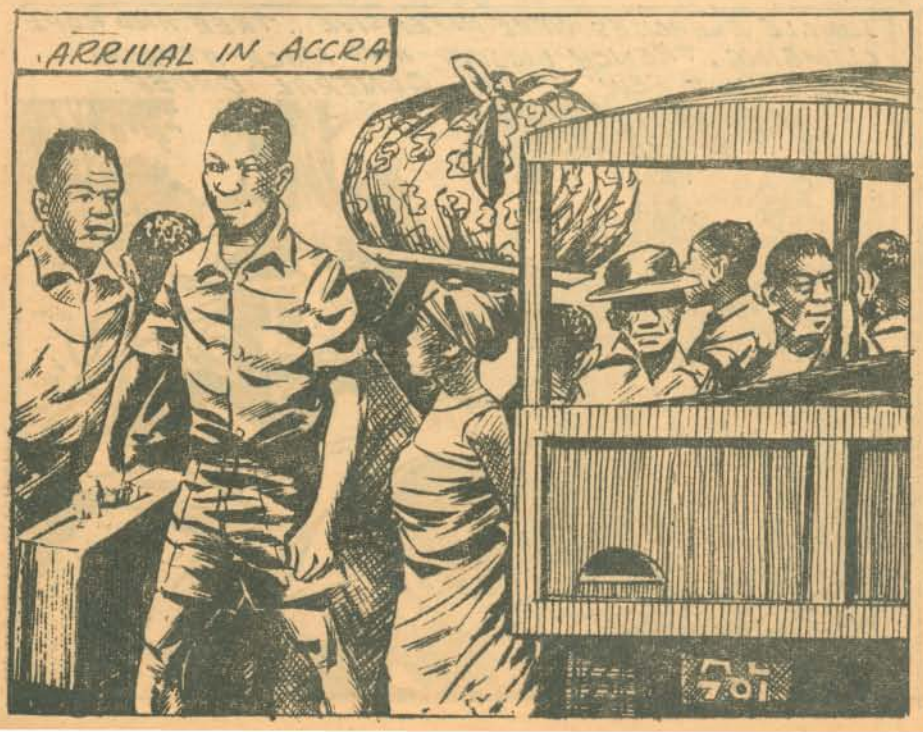

MONDAY MORNING PARADES THROUGH THE STREETS OF ANLOGA, WITH THE SCHOOL BAND PLAYING, WERE PARTICULARLY ENJOYABLE.. ESPECIALLY ON EMPIRE DAYS OF OLD, YOUNG KOTOKA WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED BY THE MILITARY SORT OF MUSIC AND THE MARCH 'PASTS, WHICH HE NEVER FAILED TO TAKE PART WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT TO PASS THE STANDARD SEVEN CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.... BUT YOUNG KOTOKA GOT THROUGH.
CONGRATULATIONS.
THANK YOU SIR!

EI KWASI, SO YOU'VE FINISHED SCHOOLING?
YES, MAMA; NOW I CAN BECOME A TEACHER MYSELF.

EMMANUEL KWASI KOTOKA TAUGHT FOR 3 YEARS

HE LATER LEARNT GOLD SMITHING AND BECAME A QUALIFIED AND CRAFTY GOLD SMITH... BUT AMBITIOUS YOUNG KOTOKA STILL WANTED TO PERSUE NEW FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE, SO HE LEFT FOR ACCRA.


ARRIVAL IN ACCRA

HE LATER ON ENLISTED IN THE THEN ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE IN JULY 1947
GOOD!

DURING HIS SHORT SPELL IN THE RANKS, HE EXHIBITED SUCH STERLING QUALITIES OF SOLDIERLY THAT HE WON THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF BOTH HIS COLLEAGUES AND SUPERIORS. HE ROSE QUICKLY THROUGH THE RANKS AND BECAME A COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR IN 1951 - FOUR YEARS AFTER ENLISTMENT.

HE WAS SELECTED FOR OFFICER CADET TRAINING AT THE R.O.S.T. COMMAND TRAINING SCHOOL, TESHIE. (NOW THE GHANA MILITARY ACADEMY) IN 1953-54.

MILITARY TRAINING WAS TOUGH... DAYS SPENT IN THE BUSH THROUGH RAINS AND SWAMPS.

JUNGLE EXERCISES WERE INTENSIVE... TREE AND ROPE CLIMBING, TRENCH DIGGING AND MOCK ATTACKS WERE JUST FEW OF THE GENERAL ORDER.

BUT THEY SERVED HIM WELL, FOR KOTOKA WAS SELECTED FOR FURTHER TRAINING AT ETON HALL, ENGLAND IN 1954.

THAT'S FINE; CONTINUE LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL BE A GENERAL ONE DAY.
I WILL BE HAPPY IF I RECEIVED A COMMISSION, COMMANDER.

KOTOKA WAS COMMISSIONED AS LIEUTENANT ON 20TH NOVEMBER. 1954
WELL, YOU'RE AN OFFICER NOW; CONGRATS; SERVE YOUR COUNTRY WELL.
I SHALL TRY SIR!

EMMANUEL KWASI KOTOKA WAS ATTACHED TO THE FIRST BATTALION, KINGS SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY IN GERMANY FOR 3 MONTHS, BEFORE HE MADE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN HOME.

AFTER SERVING AS PLATOON COMMANDER IN THE 2ND. BATTALION OF INFANTRY, HE RETURNED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1956 FOR A MORTAR COURSE AT NETHER AVON, ENGLAND... ON HIS RETURN, HE WAS PROMOTED AS CAPTAIN EARLY IN 1958; LATER IN THE SAME YEAR, HE WAS PROMOTED MAJOR. HE WAS STILL MAJOR IN COMMAND OF THE 2ND. BATTALION OF THE GHANA ARMY, WHEN THE CONGO CRISIS BROKE OUT IN 1960.

HE LED HIS BATTALION TO THE CONGO TO FORM PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCE. HE SAW WITH HIS OWN EYES THE BRUTALITY THAT RESULTS FROM MALADMINISTRATION.
UN FORCE

HE SAW SERVICE IN LEOPOLDVILLE
BANK
UN FORCE

VIGILANCE WAS A 24-HOUR AFFAIR SEEING TO IT THAT IMPORTANT BUILDINGS, EMBASSIES AND THE AIRPORT WERE SAFE. HE LATER RETURNED TO GHANA.
UN FORCE

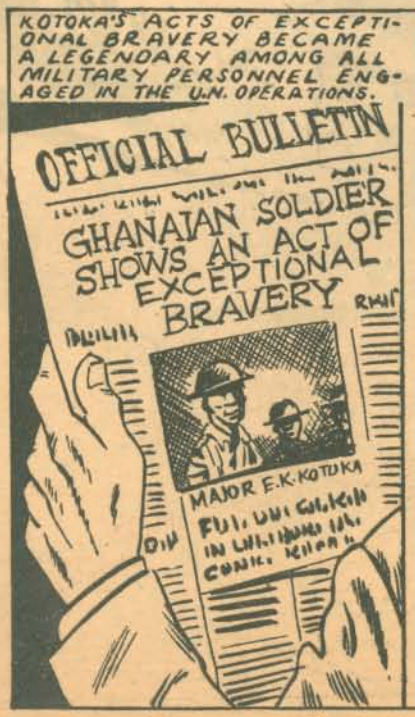
CAMPAIGN IN LULUABORG —KASAI PROVINCE.

IN 1961, EMMANUEL KWASI KOTOKA AGAIN WENT TO THE CONGO. HE AND HIS MEN FOUGHT THROUGH FROM LEOPOLDVILLE... TO COQUILHATVILLE

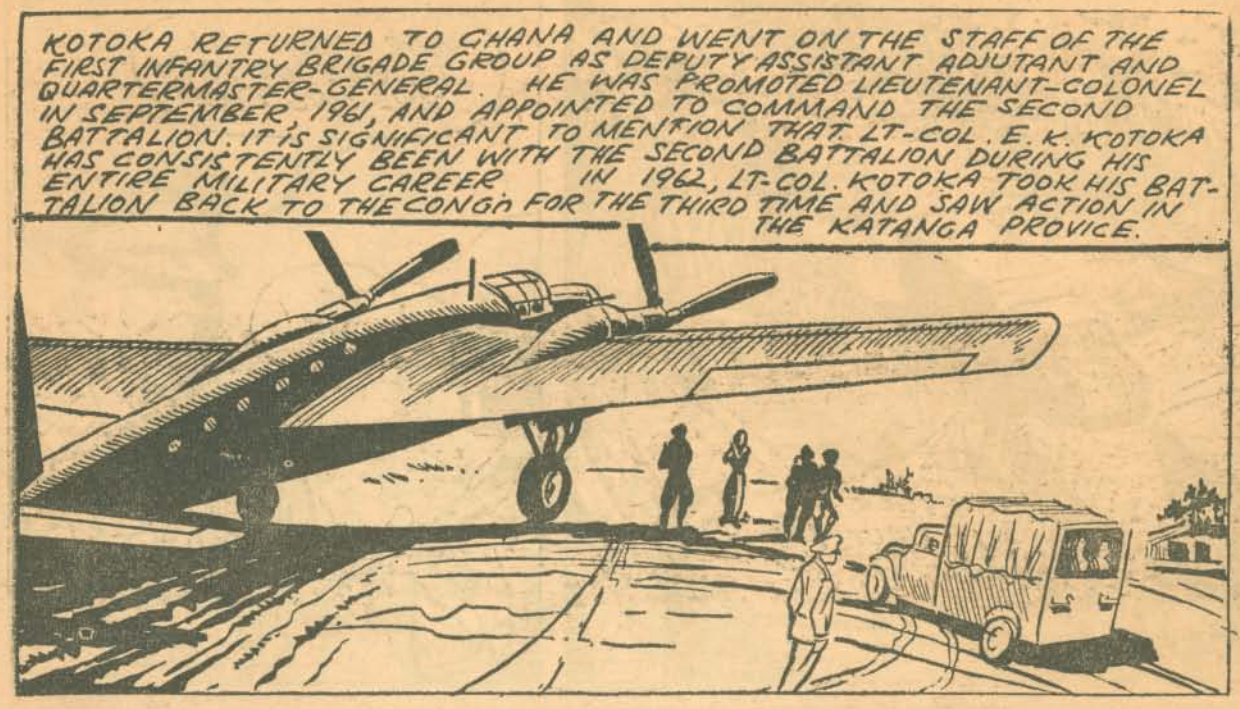
THEY ADVANCED DAY AND NIGHT-STOPPING ONLY TO CHECK PLANS FOR THE NEXT STRATEGY.

NO TASK WAS TOO DIFFICULT FOR KOTOKA AND HIS MEN... NO POSITION TOO "HOT" TO HOLD. THE ORDER WAS TO WIN PEACE FOR THE CONGO.

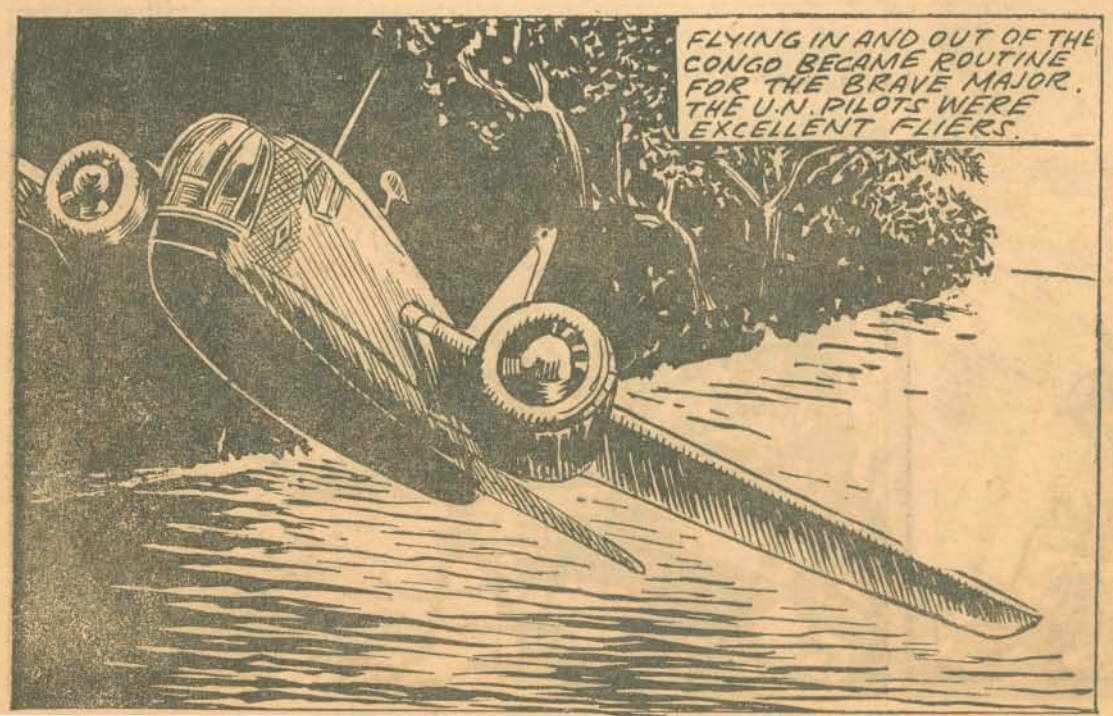
U.N. HEADQUARTERS WERE IMPRESSED.
THAT'S IT VERY IMPRESSIVE YOU'LL GET A MEDAL FOR THIS, EMMA.
UN FORCE


KOTOKA'S ACTS OF EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY BECAME A LEGENDARY AMONG ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THE U.N. OPERATIONS.
OFFICIAL BULLETIN
GHANAIAN SOLDIER SHOWS AN ACT OF EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY
MAJOR E.K. KOTOKA

THIS MAN MUST POSSESS REAL ANIMAL COURAGE.
DAILY NEWS


KOTOKA RETURNED TO GHANA AND WENT ON THE STAFF OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL. HE WAS PROMOTED LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN SEPTEMBER, 1961, AND APPOINTED TO COMMAND THE SECOND BATTALION. IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO MENTION THAT LT-COL. E. K. KOTOKA HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN WITH THE SECOND BATTALION DURING HIS ENTIRE MILITARY CAREER. IN 1962, LT-COL. KOTOKA TOOK HIS BATTALION BACK TO THE CONGO FOR THE THIRD TIME AND SAW ACTION IN THE KATANGA PROVICE.

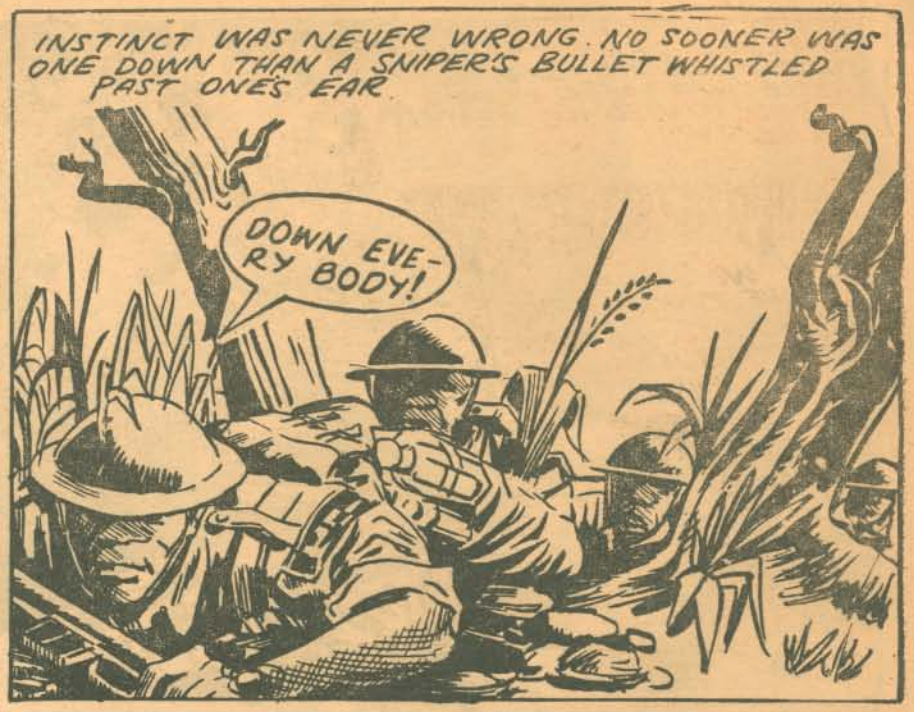
OK WE ARE FLYING OVER THE CONGO RIVER
YES, I CAN SEE THE LIGHTS OF THE BARGE


FLYING IN AND OUT OF THE CONGO BECAME ROUTINE FOR THE BRAVE MAJOR. THE U.N. PILOTS WERE EXCELLENT FLIERS.

KOTOKA GOES TO KATANGA.
TSOMBE'S FORCES ARE IN THIS AREA, HERE....
WE'LL HAVE TO ENCIRCLE THEM, I THINK.

MAJOR KOTOKA AND HIS MEN IN A LONG CONVOY TRAVELLED MOSTLY AT NIGHT, FOR DEPLOYING FORCES IN A TROUBLE-TORN AREA, DEMANDED THE GREATEST MILITARY SKILL
WE'LL LEAVE THE TRUCKS HERE AND RECONNOITRE THE BUSH.. OKAY?
ROGER, I'LL HALT THE CONVOY, SIR
YOUR MEN WILL PROVIDE US WITH COVERING FIRE.
YES SIR!
FIGHTING WAS ALWAYS FIERCE
THE MERCENARIES RETREATED FAST AS THE UN FORCES ADVANCED.
FIRE!

KATANGA IN 1961 WAS A SPOT WHERE ONLY THE BRAVE DARED SHOW THEIR FACES, PARTICULARLY IF THEY WORE U.N. UNIFORMS
I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE COVER NOW


INSTINCT WAS NEVER WRONG. NO SOONER WAS ONE DOWN THAN A SNIPER'S BULLET WHISTLED PAST ONE'S EAR
DOWN EVERY BODY!

IN SUCH DANGEROUS SITUATIONS KOTOKA ALWAYS SHOWED HIS MEN THAT NO RISK WAS TOO GREAT FOR HIM

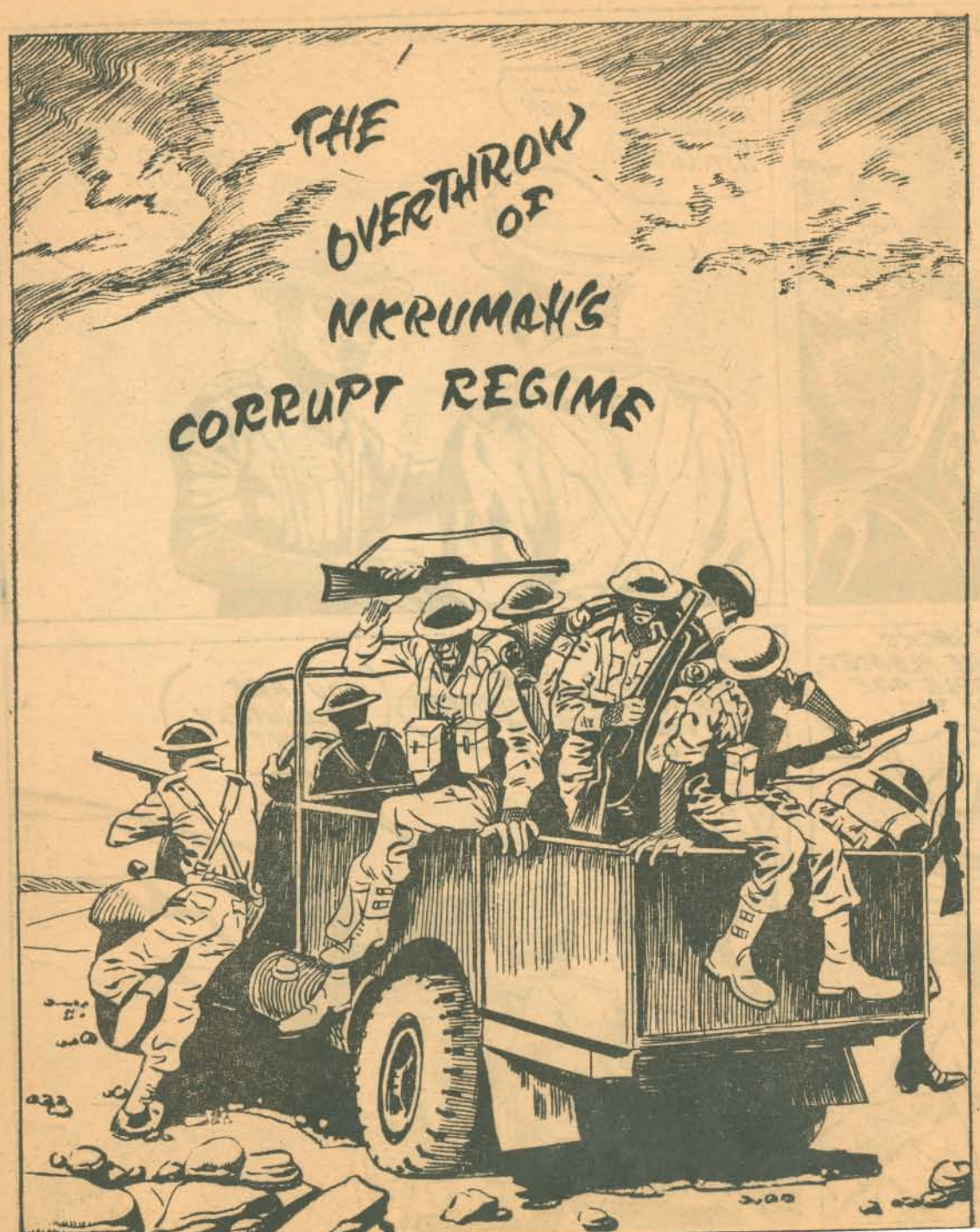
HE TOOK PART IN EVERY COMBAT HIMSELF

SOLDIERS ARE BORN, NOT MADE

'KOTOKA WAS A SOLDIER THROUGH AND THROUGH'

HE RETURNED HOME IN 1963 WHERE HE WAS AWARDED THE U N DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

GLAD TO BE HOME, WHAT?


THE OVERTHROW OF NKRUMAH'S CORRUPT REGIME

POSTED TO KUMASI, COLONEL KOTOKA (AS HE NOW WAS) MADE A NEW FRIEND..... A LEAN, YOUNG BRIGADE-MAJOR CALLED AKWASI AFRIFA

THE FRIENDSHIP SOON BLOSSOMED TO ONE OF INTIMATE RELATIONS

THE TWO FRIENDS DISCUSSED GHANA'S POLITICAL SITUATION.
THE C.P.P. IS ONLY RULING THROUGH FORCE AND INTIMIDATION.
THE PEOPLE ARE FED UP AND LIVE IN PERPETUAL FEAR

THE ARMY IS THE ONLY OPPOSITION LEFT. WHY THERE'S NO RULE OF LAW.
NKRUMAH SACKS JUDGES AS HE PLEASES, AND THE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY TOO.

WE WOULD HAVE THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT IF WE WERE TO DO A COUP.
YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT..

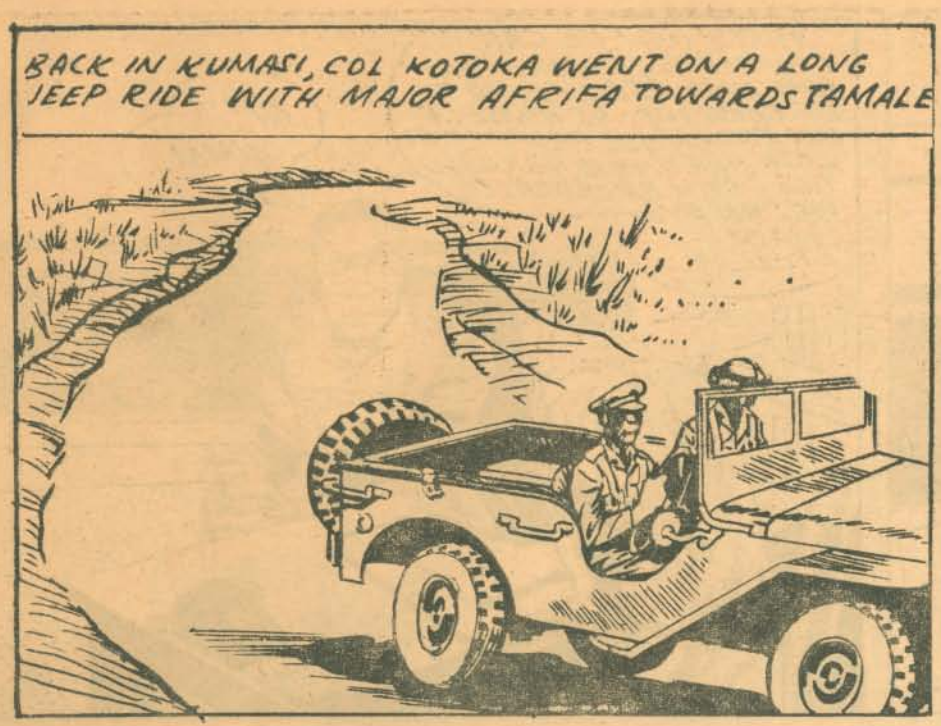
COLONEL KOTOKA VISITED ACCRA AND TALKED WITH THE HEAD OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH, MR J.W.K. HARLLEY.
I TELL YOU NKRUMAH IS CORRUPT, EMMA.

THAT'S WHY HE CAN'T PROSECUTE THE MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE CORRUPT HE HIMSELF HAS ENORMOUS PROPERTIES BOTH HERE AND ABROAD. THE DAWN BROADCAST WAS AN EYE-WASH. I TELL YOU.
AH! HMM...

JOHN, WE'LL HAVE TO ACT. WE MUST STRIKE AS SOON, AS HE GOES TO HANOI; THERE'LL BE LESS BLOODSHED WHEN HE'S AWAY.

GOOD! BRIGHT IDEA

GOODBYE, EMMA, AND REMEMBER YOUR COUNTRY'S DESTINY IS IN YOUR HANDS.


BACK IN KUMASI, COL KOTOKA WENT ON A LONG JEEP RIDE WITH MAJOR AFRIFA TOWARDS TAMALE

BY THE TIME THEY CAME BACK, THE DETAILS OF A PLAN FOR A COUP D'ETAT HAD BEEN THRASHED OUT

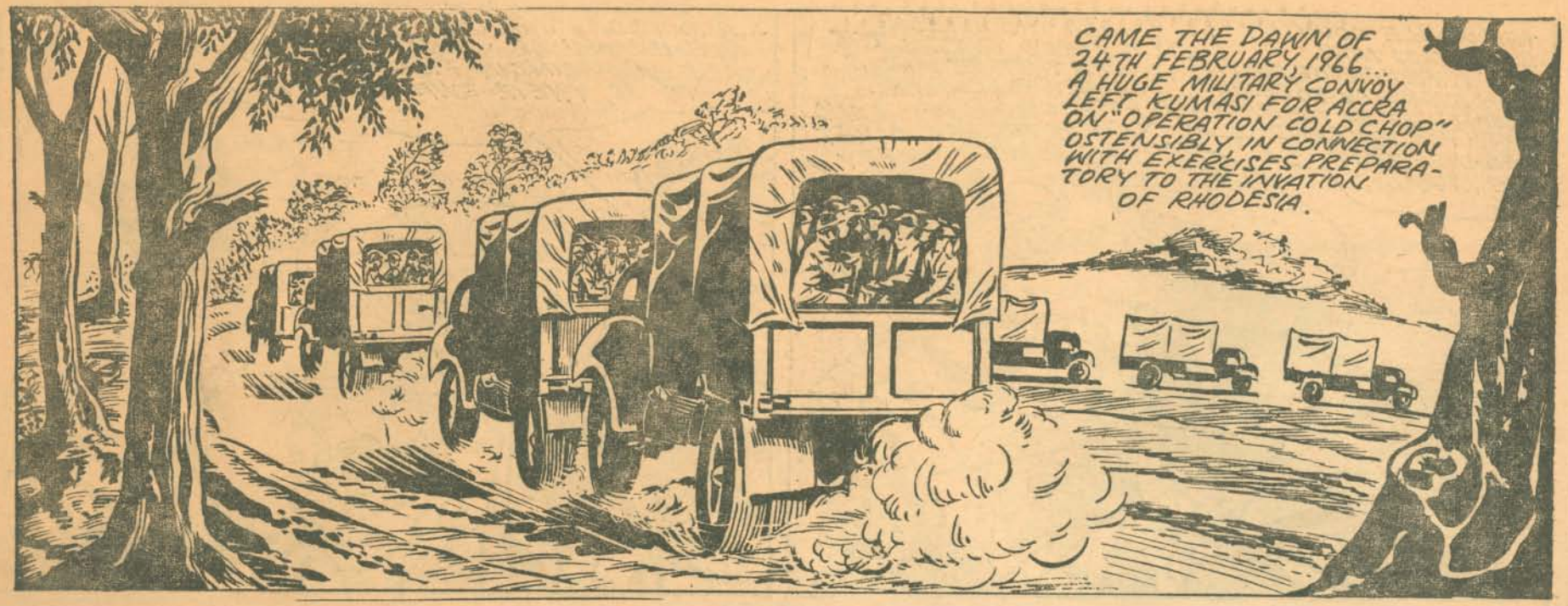
YES, I THINK IT'S AN EXCELLENT PLAN. WELL DONE, AKWASI.
THANK YOU SIR.

THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS IN CHAOS NOW. THE WIFE CANNOT DISCUSS HER INABILITY TO SECURE FOODSTUFFS IN THE MARKET WITH HER HUSBAND; BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID.
...AND THE HUSBAND IS AFRAID TO TELL THE WIFE THAT HIS WHOLE SALARY IS DIDUCTED FOR DUBIOUS DEEDS AND THAT THE PAY PACKET IS ALMOST EMPTY.

...AND TODAY OUR OWN CHILDREN: THE UNPOPULAR YOUNG PIONEERS, ARE MENACINGLY FRIGHTFUL TO US, THEIR OWN PARENTS
OH NO! NO! THIS DICTATOR MUST BE SMASHED IMMEDIATELY. ....AND NOW!

AT THE ASHANTI-MAMPONG SCARP THE TWO COMPANIONS WALKED DOWN THE SLOPES, STILL DISCUSSING THE DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE COUNTRY.
HOW CAN WE SURVIVE IN A COUNTRY LIKE THIS? IF WE DON'T SAVE IT FROM TOTAL RUIN? CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY IN HIGH PLACES - THESE SHOULD STOP.

NEPOTISM HAS REDUCED EFFICIENCY TO THE LOWEST EBB. ....AND
...AND UNNECESSARY PRESTIGIOUS PROJECTS DESIGNED TO PUT HUGE SUMS IN THEIR POCKETS. AND ALSO ALL SORTS OF PERCENTAGE DEALS, WHILE WE HAVE NO MEDICINES IN OUR HOSPITALS.


CAME THE DAWN OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 1966.... A HUGE MILITARY CONVOY LEFT KUMASI FOR ACCRA ON "OPERATION COLD CHOP" OSTENSIBLY, IN CONNECTION WITH EXERCISES PREPARATORY TO THE INVATION OF RHODESIA.

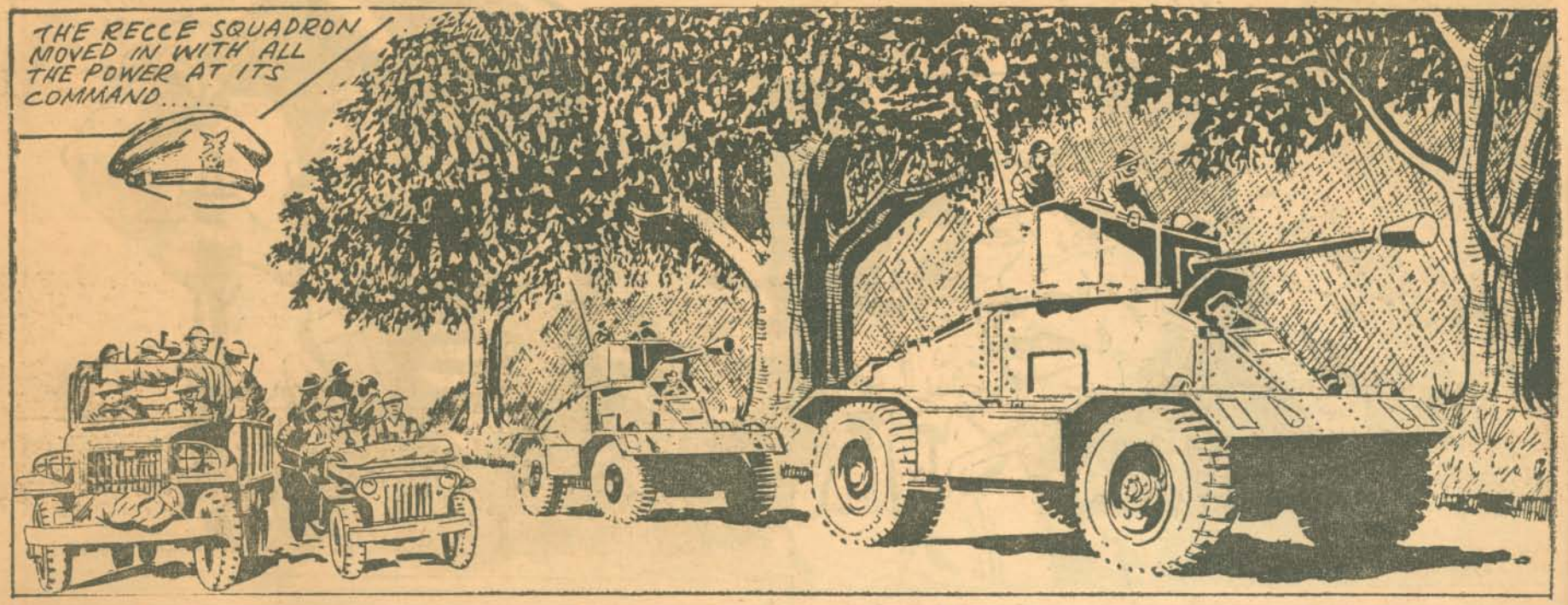
ON THEIR WAY THE CONVOY WAS STOPPED AND THE TWO MEN GOT DOWN UNDER SOME TREES TO TAKE A LAST LOOK AT THEIR MASTER-PLAN.
DON'T YOU THINK FOR THE FACT THAT FLAGSTAFF HOUSE WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF SECURITY AND AMMUNITION MUST BE ATTACKED FIRST?

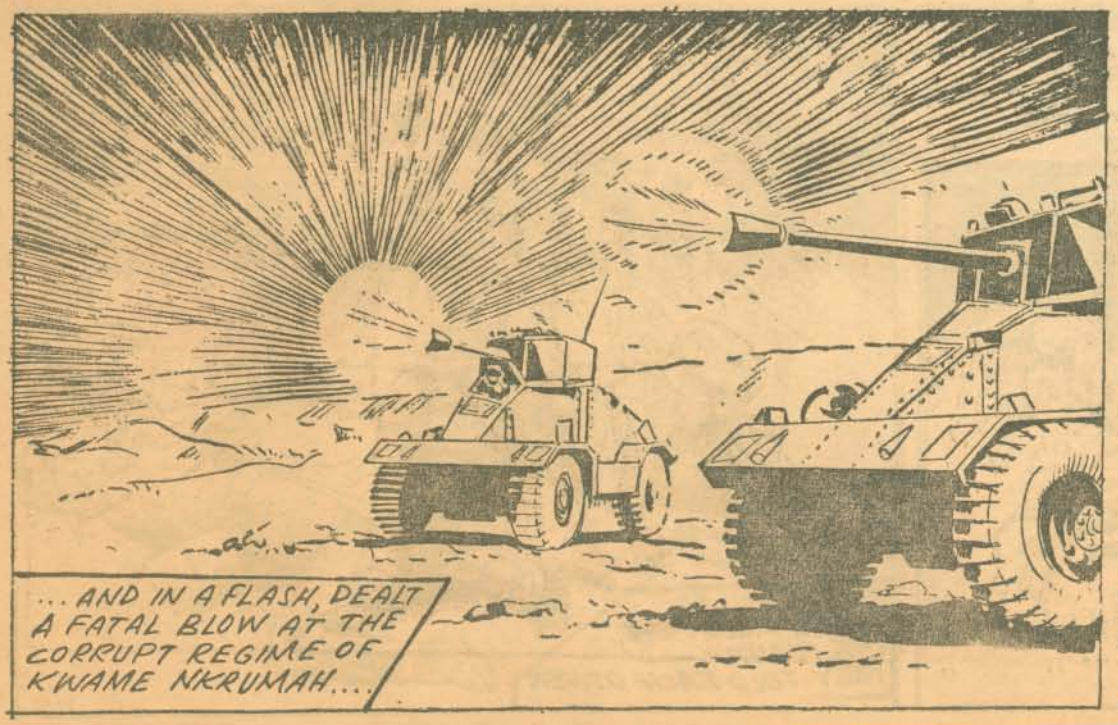
OTHER PLACES LIKE THE AIRPORT, BROADCASTING HOUSE POST OFFICE, CABLE AND WIRELESS ETC. ETC... WOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT.
I THINK TWO COMPANIES WILL BE ENOUGH; THEY MUST REINFORCE US AS SOON AS THEY CAPTURE THE SHAI HILLS CAMP

WITH WEAPONS FIRM IN HAND.... FACES GRIM WITH DETERMINATION.....
THE MEN SURGED FORWARD ON NKRUMAH'S REGIME FEARLESSLY.

AT FLAGSTAFF HOUSE, THE FIGHTING WAS GRIM... BUT THE TWO GREAT SONS OF GHANA LED THEIR MEN ON AND ON... THEY CARED NOTHING FOR THEIR LIVES... AND THESE WERE THE SOLEMN MOMENTS OF FAITH AND DEDICATION.

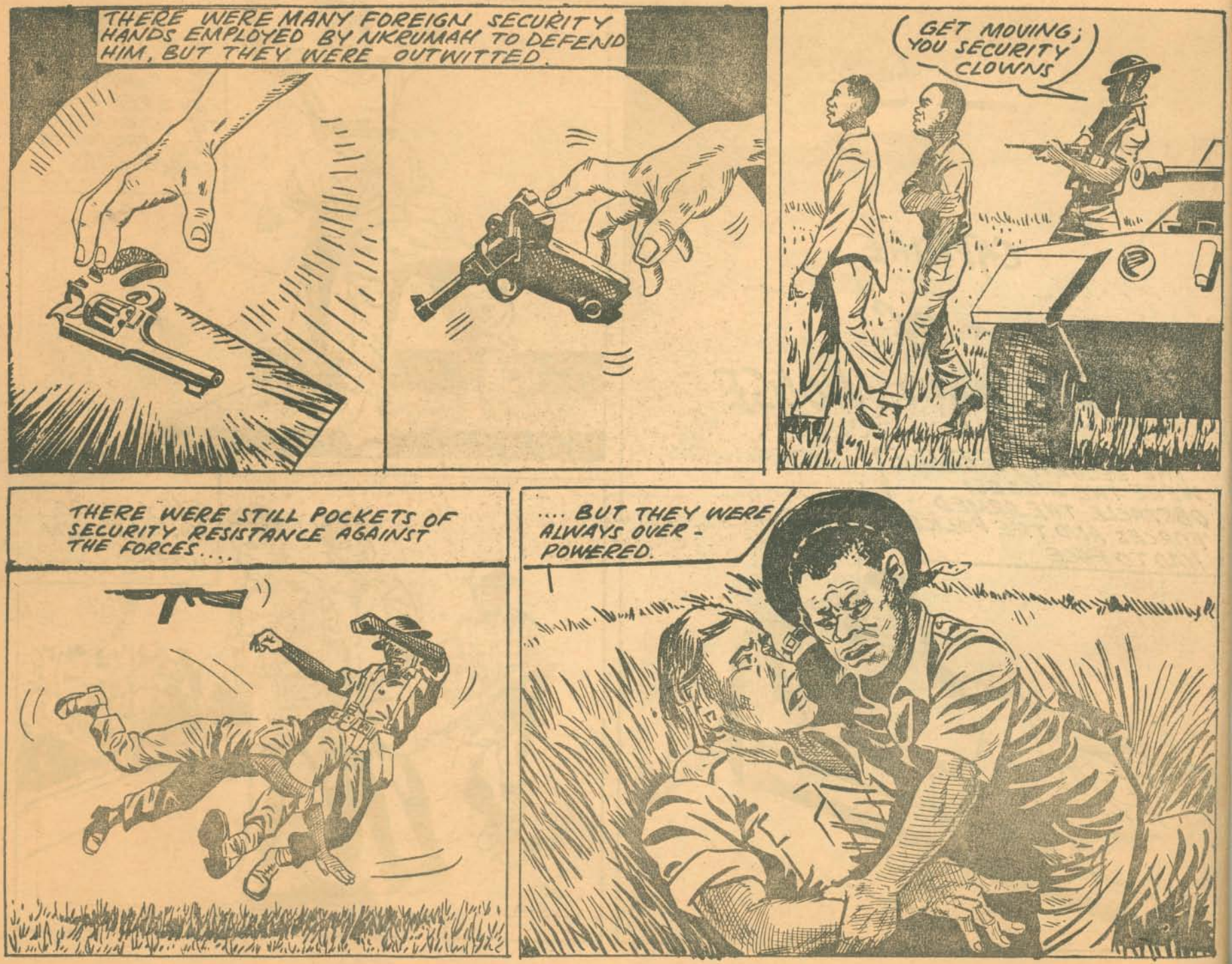
IF I AM KILLED, YOU'LL CARRY ON THE FIGHT" — THEY TOLD EACH OTHER.

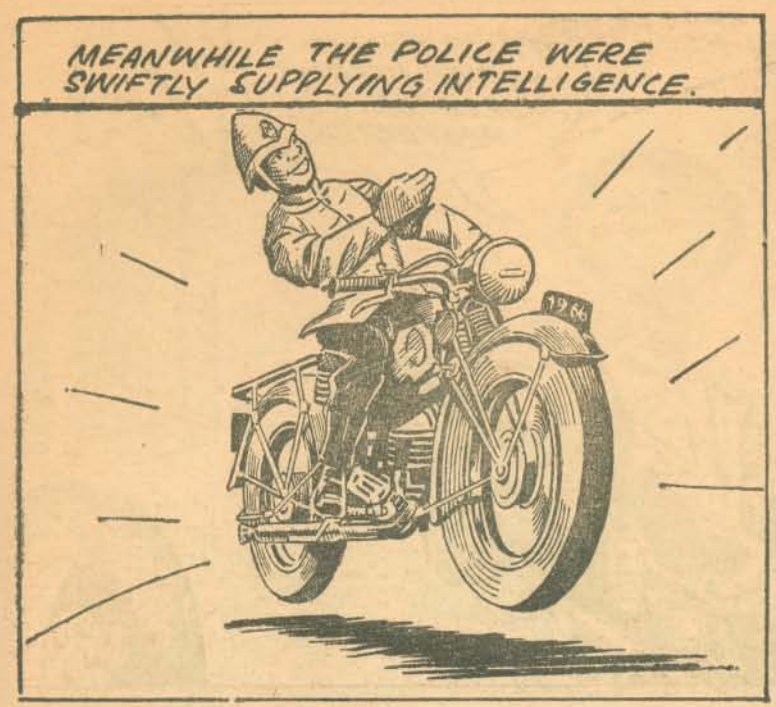

THE RECCE SQUADRON MOVED IN WITH ALL THE POWER AT ITS COMMAND.....

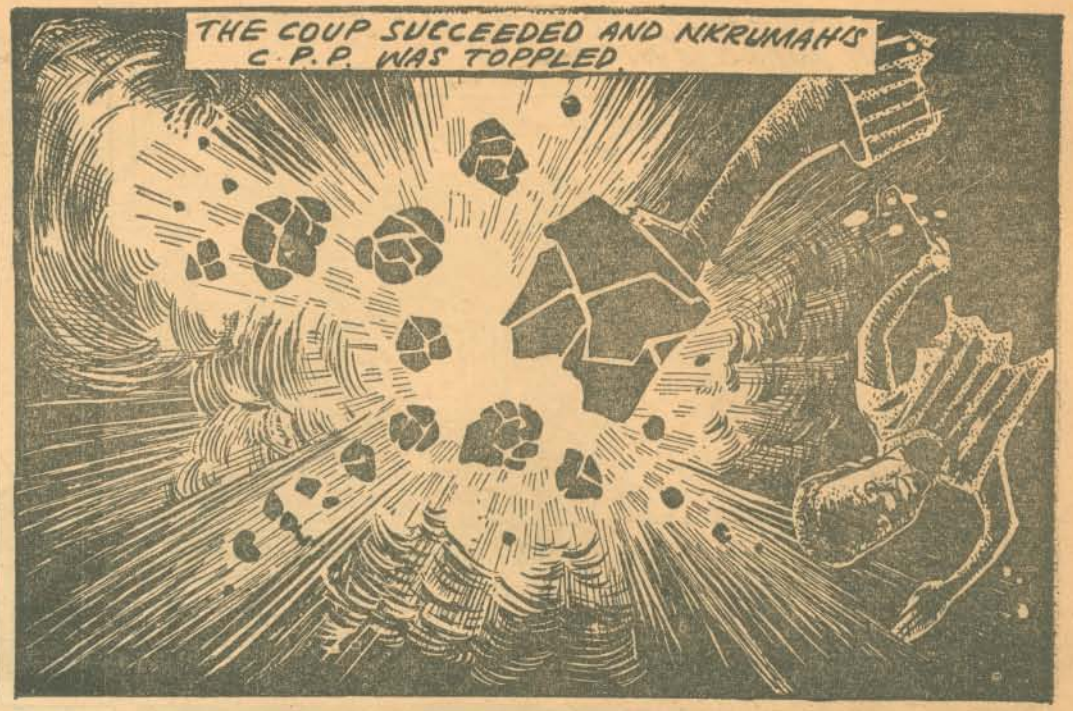

...AND IN A FLASH, DEALT A FATAL BLOW AT THE CORRUPT REGIME OF KWAME NKRUMAH....

ALL TRACES OF THE REGIME WAS ERADICATED.

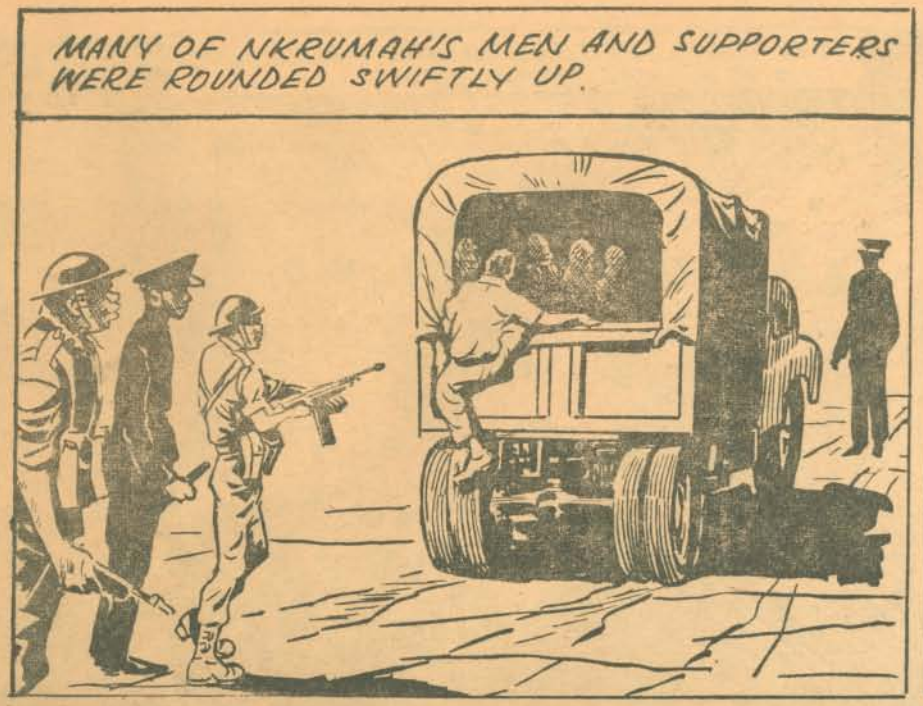
CAPTURE OF FLAGSTAFF HOUSE

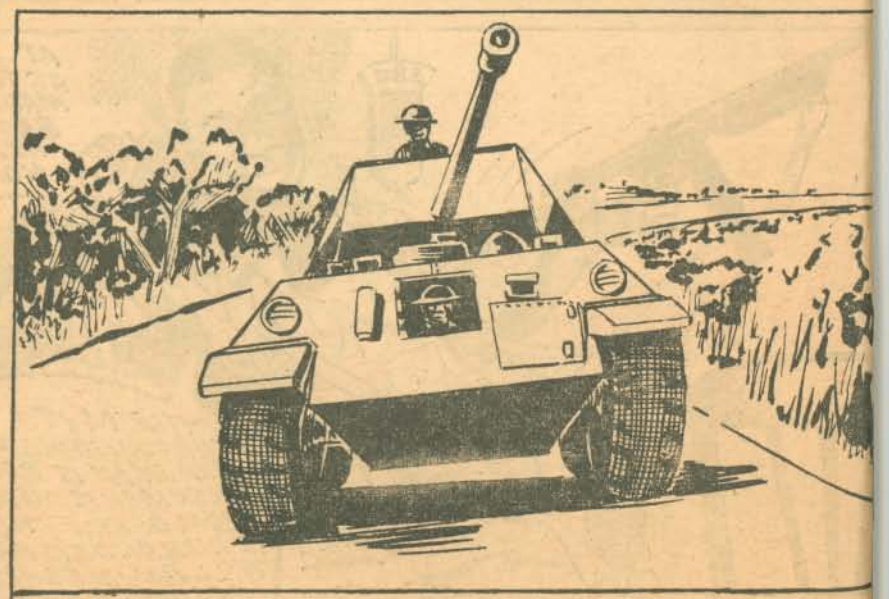

THERE WERE MANY FOREIGN SECURITY HANDS EMPLOYED BY NKRUMAH TO DEFEND HIM, BUT THEY WERE OUTWITTED.
GET MOVING; YOU SECURITY CLOWNS
THERE WERE STILL POCKETS OF SECURITY RESISTANCE AGAINST THE FORCES....
.... BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS OVER-POWERED.


MEANWHILE THE POLICE WERE SWIFTLY SUPPLYING INTELLIGENCE.
1966

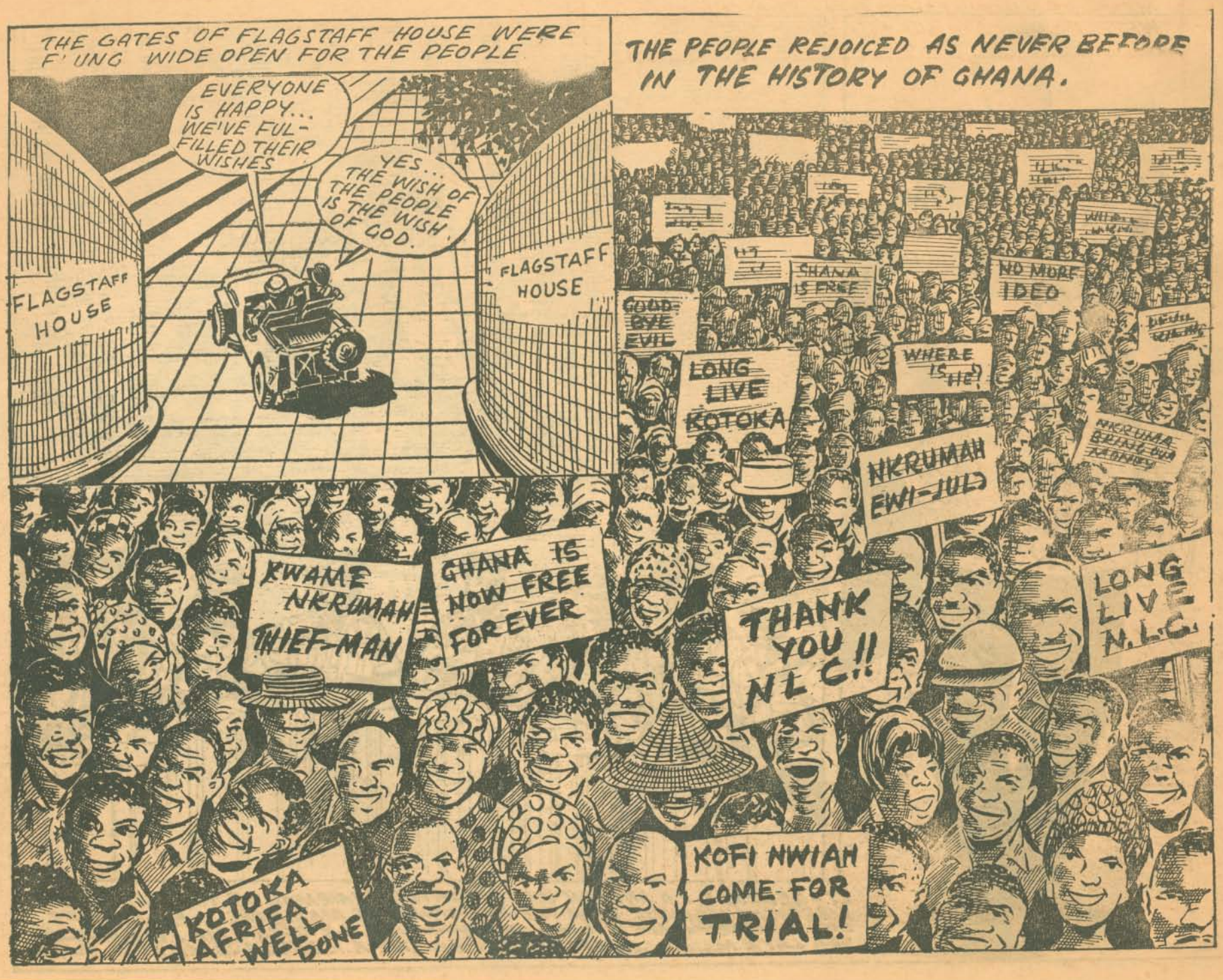

THE COUP SUCCEEDED AND NKRUMAH'S C.P.P. WAS TOPPLED.

GBC
GBC
AT 0.600 HOURS ON 24TH. FEBRUARY, 1966, AT THE BROADCASTING HOUSE, COL. KOTOKA MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BROUGHT GLADNESS TO THE HEART OF EVERY HONEST GHANAIAN.
THE MYTH SURROUNDING KWAME NKRUMAH IS BROKEN. NKRUMAH IS DISMISSED FROM OFFICE. THE C.P.P. IS DISBANDED AND IT WILL BE ILLEGAL TO BELONG TO IT... THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS DISSOLVED!
WE'VE DONE IT. CONGRATULATIONS
CONGRATULATIONS.





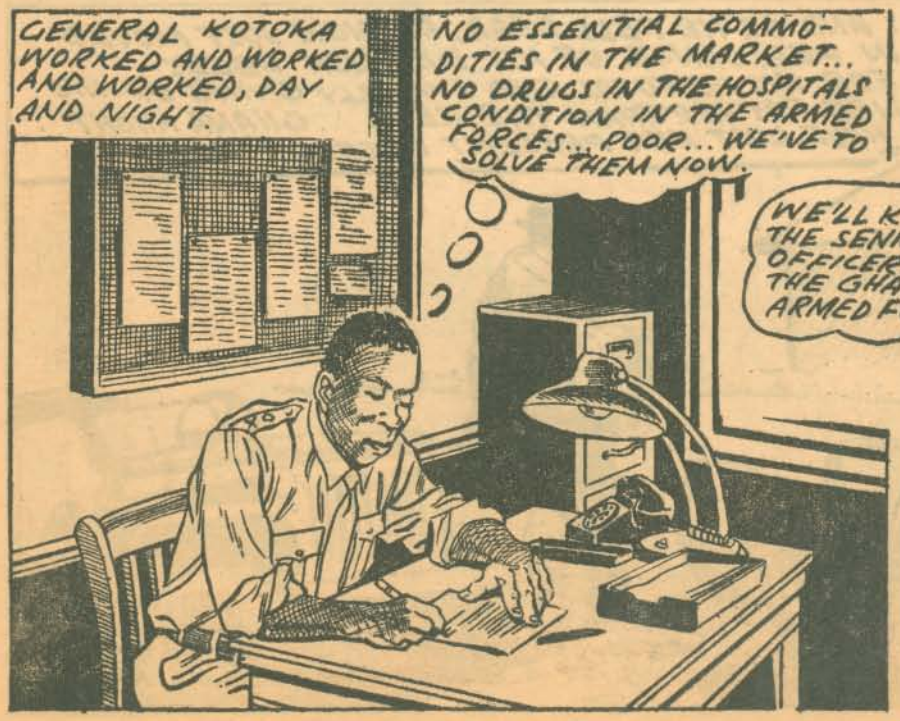
VIGILANCE IN THE CITY OF ACCRA WAS BRISK.

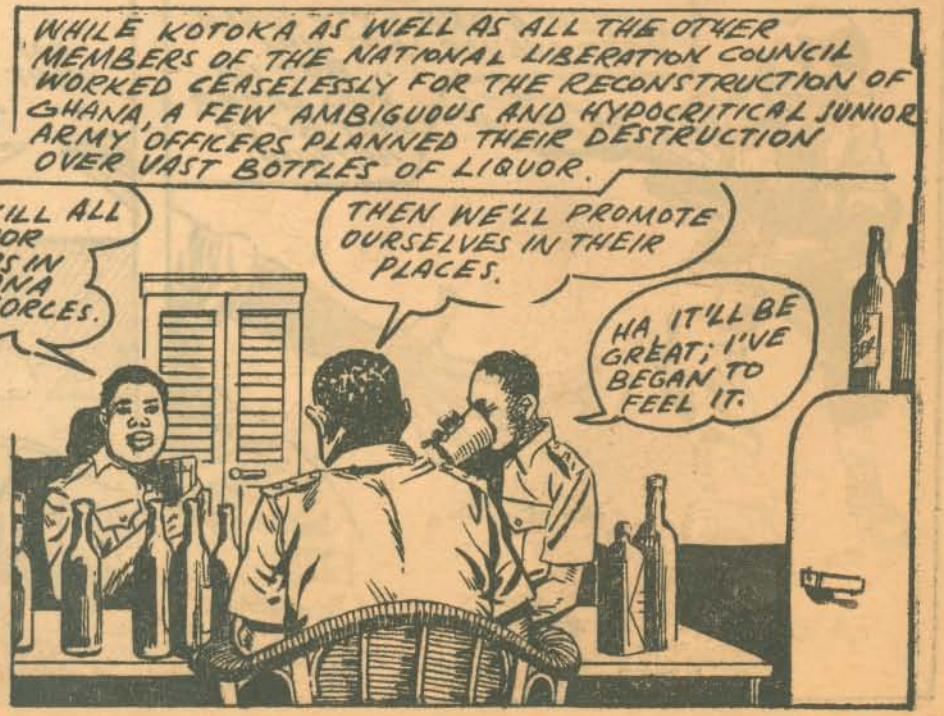

THE GATES OF FLAGSTAFF HOUSE WERE F'UNG WIDE OPEN FOR THE PEOPLE
EVERYONE IS HAPPY... WE'VE FUL-FILLED THEIR WISHES
YES... THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE IS THE WISH OF GOD.
FLAGSTAFF HOUSE
FLAGSTAFF HOUSE
THE PEOPLE REJOICED AS NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF GHANA.
GOOD-BYE EVIL
GHANA IS FREE
NO MORE IDEO
LONG LIVE KOTOKA
WHERE IS HE?
NKRUMAH EWI-JULO
NKRUMAH BRING OUR MONEY
KWAME NKRUMAH THIEF-MAN
GHANA IS NOW FREE FOR EVER
THANK YOU N.L.C.!!
LONG LIVE N.L.C.
KOTOKA AFRIFA WELL DONE
KOFI NWIAH COME FOR TRIAL!

LT.-GENERAL J.A. ANKRAH WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING AS MEMBERS.... FROM LEFT.... COL. A.A. AFRIFA, MR. B.A. YAKUBU, BRIGADIER A.K. OCRAN, MR J.W.K. HARLLEY, THE LATE MAJOR-GENERAL E.K. KOTOKA, MR A.K. DEKU AND MR J.E.O. NUNOO.

KOTOKA WAS N.L.C. MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEFENCE....
HE OFTEN VISITED THE SICK.

HE WORKED HARD TO BRING QUICKLY NEW SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF EVERY GHANAIAN.
YES.. THAT'S THE CORRECT SPIRIT.


GENERAL KOTOKA WORKED AND WORKED AND WORKED, DAY AND NIGHT.
NO ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE MARKET... NO DRUGS IN THE HOSPITALS CONDITION IN THE ARMED FORCES... POOR... WE'VE TO SOLVE THEM NOW.

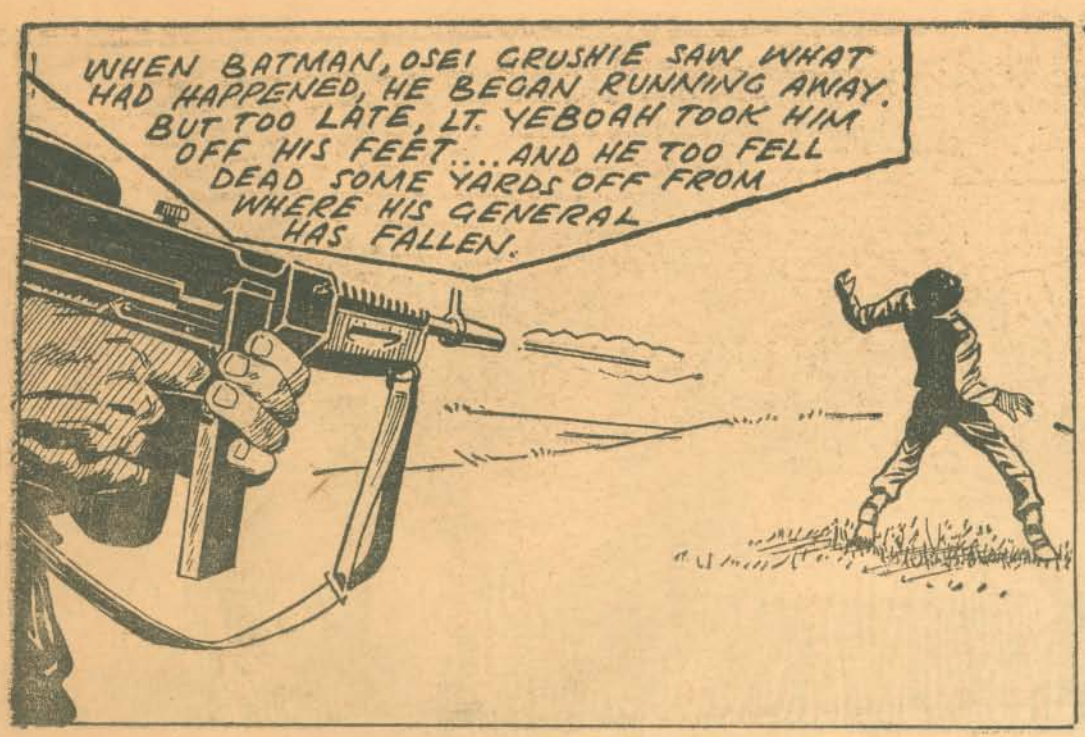

WHILE KOTOKA AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION COUNCIL WORKED CEASELESSLY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GHANA, A FEW AMBIGUOUS AND HYPOCRITICAL JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS PLANNED THEIR DESTRUCTION OVER VAST BOTTLES OF LIQUOR.
WE'LL KILL ALL THE SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE GHANA ARMED FORCES.
THEN WE'LL PROMOTE OURSELVES IN THEIR PLACES.
HA, IT'LL BE GREAT; I'VE BEGAN TO FEEL IT.

THIS WAS THE DARKEST DAY IN GHANA'S HISTORY, ON 17TH. APRIL 1967, THESE THREE JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS TRIED TO TAKE OVER POWER IN THEIR OWN HANDS. THIS RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF LT. GEN. E.K. KOTOKA, CAPT. AVEVOR, CAPT. BORKLOE AND BATMAN, OSEI-GRUNSHIE.
AT THE BURMA CAMP, LT. ARTHUR POUNCED ON CAPT. AVEVOR FOR THE AMMUNITION DEPOT KEY.
IF YOU DON'T HAND OVER THE KEYS, I'LL SMASH OFF YOUR SKULL!
I CAN NEVER DO THAT LET ME GO!
AFTER A BRIEF STRUGGLE, CAPT. AVEVOR LEFT HIM... .. BUT HE WAS LATER SHOT BY LT. ARTHUR.
. . . AND AS HE FELL DEAD, ARTHUR JUST MOVED ON IN PERSUANCE OF HIS DEVILISH DEEDS. BUT FOR HIS REFUSAL AND FINALLY GIVING UP HIS LIFE RATHER THAN THE KEYS . . GHANA MIGHT HAVE LOST HER PRESENT FREEDOM FOREVER.

THE GENERAL WAS PUT IN AN ARMOURED CAR TOGETHER WITH HIS BATMAN.. OSEI-GRUNSHIE AND DRIVEN TOWARDS ACCRA AIRPORT. THE EVIL LIEUTENANT YEBOAH THEN HASTILY GRABBED HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN AND SPRAYED GHANA'S HERO WITH INCESSANT BULLETS.
AAGH....
OOOUGH
OOUMM

GHANA'S TRUE REDEEMER FELL DEAD AMONG THE THORNY GRASS.

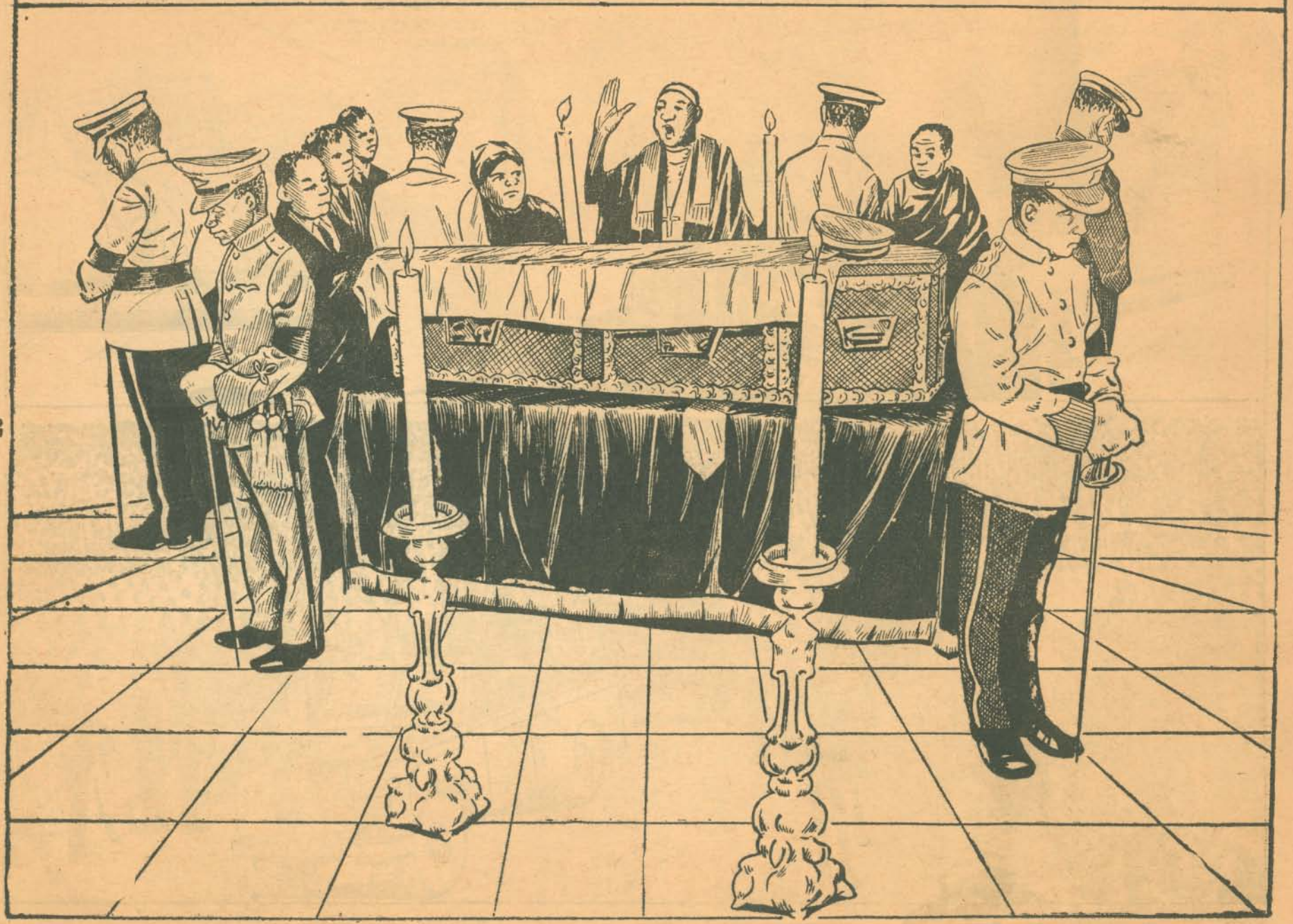
GENERAL KOTOKA'S BODY WAS LEFT LYING ON A BUILDING SITE NEAR THE ACCRA AIR PORT.


WHEN BATMAN, OSEI GRUSHIE SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE BEGAN RUNNING AWAY. BUT TOO LATE, LT. YEBOAH TOOK HIM OFF HIS FEET.... AND HE TOO FELL DEAD SOME YARDS OFF FROM WHERE HIS GENERAL HAS FALLEN.

CAPTAIN BORKLOE FELL NEAR THE FLAGSTAFF HOUSE AFTER A STUBBORN RESISTANCE AGAINST THE INSURGENTS..

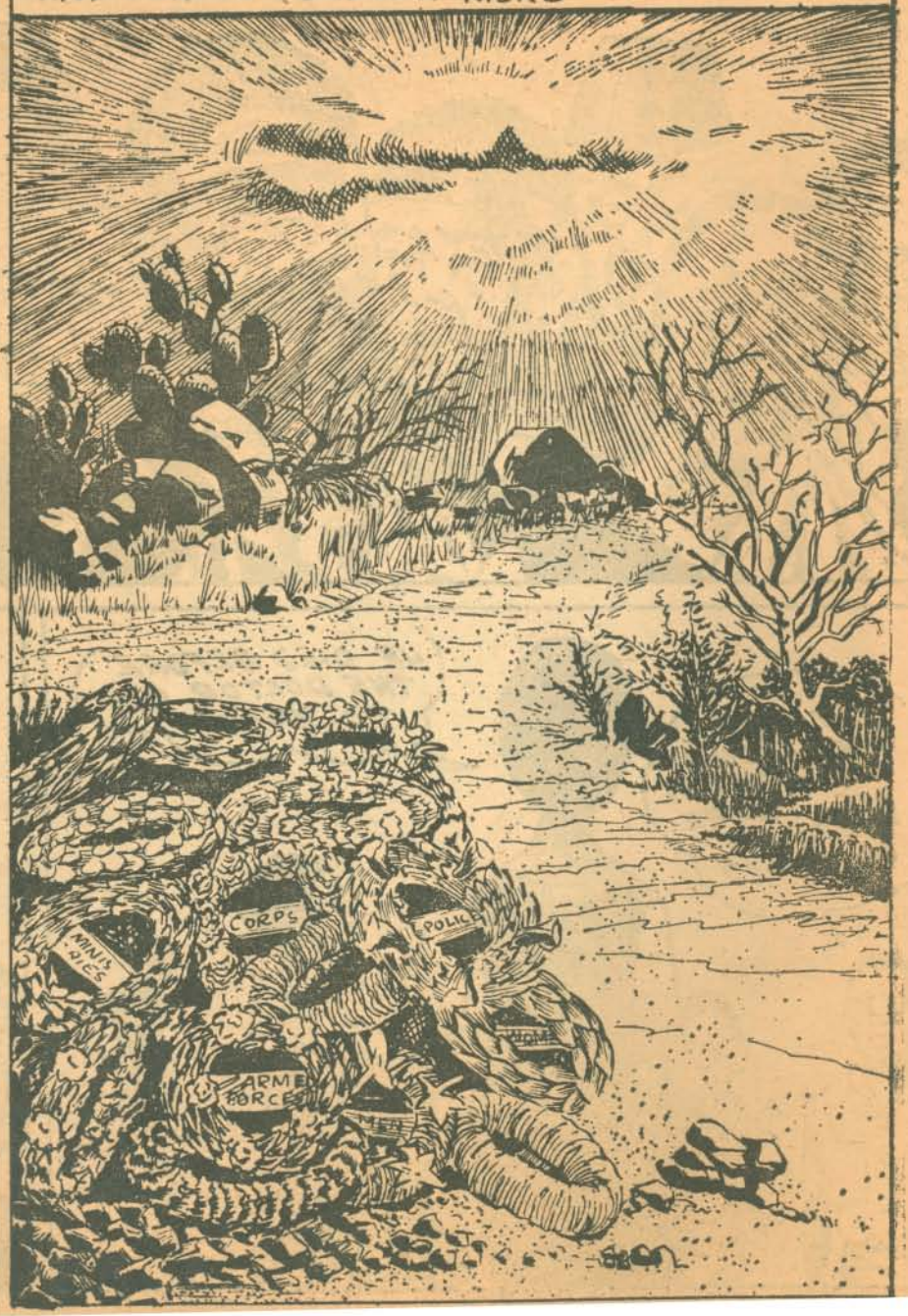
THESE THREE FAITHFUL AND GALLANT SOLDIERS RECEIVED FULL STATE BURIAL AND THEIR NAMES WILL BE REMEMBERED IN ALL TIME TO COME.

THE LYING-IN-STATE OF THE LATE GENERAL EMMANUEL KWASI KOTOKA.



FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HOLY SPIRIT CATHEDRAL, THE LATE GENERAL'S COFFIN WAS CARRIED ON TOP OF A GUN-CARRIER ALONG THE ONE MILE ROUTE TO THE MILITARY CEMETARY ACCOMPANIED BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

PEOPLE WEPT BITTERLY EVERYWHERE
EVEN CHILDREN JOINED THE ADULTS TO MOURN THE LATE GENERAL.
BUT MAMA, WHY SHOULD THE GENERAL DIE... WERE THERE NO DOCTORS?
HE DIED BEFORE THE DOCTOR GOT TO KNOW
DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY, THOUGH DEAD, KOTOKA IS STILL WITH US THROUGH THE FREEDOM HE HAS WON FOR US.

GHANA LEARNT OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HER HERO WITH UNBELIEF ... SHE MOURNED, SHE WEPT SHE WAILED... OH THAT IT SHOULD BE KOTOKA WHO SHOULD DIE!

BUT THOUGH HE'S DEAD, HE'S NOT FORGOTTEN. HIS BRAVE DEEDS LIVE ON IN ALL OUR MINDS AND HEARTS FOREVER MORE